

Craighead Environmental Research Institute

Monthly Progress Report: January, 2008

for the Montana Department of Transportation and Western
Transportation Institute

Bozeman Pass Wildlife Monitoring

MSU banner number 426899

1 January 2008 – 31 January 2008

Task 1: Road Kill Surveys during January 2008

Road kill surveys were conducted between Bozeman and Jackson Creek. Surveys were conducted on both sides of I-90 from Bozeman to Jackson Creek and back for a total of 22 miles round trip and an estimated 1 hour of labor per survey. Fourteen (14) road-kill surveys were driven during January of 2008. Eight (8) of those recorded no new road-kill. This equals 308 miles driven in January for this subcontract. Totals of animals killed between Bozeman and Livingston were:

Bozeman Pass Roadkill Totals	January
Species	Number
Badger	0
Beaver	0
Bobcat	0
Bird Spp.	0
Black Bear	0
Cowbird	0
Coyote	1
Deer species	1
Dog	0
Domestic cat	1
Elk	0
Great Horned Owl	1
Hungarian (Gray) Partridge	0
Magpie	1
Mallard	0
Marmot	0
Meadowlark	0
Mink	0
Moose	0

Mule Deer	0
Pigeon	0
Porcupine	0
Rabbit	0
Raccoon	0
Red Fox	0
Snowshoe Hare	0
Skunk	0
Small mammal spp.	1
Weasel	0
White Tail Deer	3

Task 2: Track bed monitoring at the MRL Bridge in January 2008

Because of snow conditions only one opportunistic track bed session was completed in January. Three (3) sets of deer tracks crossed the track bed in a 2-day period from 1-23 to 1-25.

Task 3: Photo monitoring at fence ends through January 2008

Cameras were not downloaded in January. Batteries for all remote cameras were operational.

Task 4: Infrared counter monitoring at jump-outs through January 2008

The Trailmaster sensors are often triggered by false events and adjustment of counter sensitivity settings has been unable to make them reliable. They were not checked during January.

Task 5: Track bed monitoring at fence ends, jump-outs through January 2008

Because of snow and freezing conditions, track beds are not reliable during winter but can be opportunistically checked when snow conditions permit. Several sets of deer tracks entered inside the fence at the NE and SE fence ends on January 25. Most tracks returned the way they entered staying between the fence and the guardrail. However one female whitetail deer was found inside the fence above the N end of the culverts. The deer ran westward between the fence and the guardrail and followed the fence down near the NE jump-out. Lance Craighead cautiously hazed the deer toward the jump-out but instead of climbing up the hill to the top of the jump-out the deer squeezed between the wildlife fence and the jump-out wall. It managed to work its way out in that fashion and ran away to the north. It appeared to be unhurt.

Task 6: Photo monitoring of culverts January 2008

The culvert cameras were not downloaded in January. Batteries for all remote cameras were replaced at the end of October and should last through the winter.

Task 7: Opportunistic snow tracking at track bed, fence ends, jump-outs, and along the Interstate in January 2008.

Snow conditions allowed opportunistic tracking of highway crossings along most of the Interstate on two days. On 1/23/2008 deer tracks were observed crossing the highway at these locations:

MP 316.5 (1)

MP 311.0 (2)

MP 310.0 (1)

MP 309.8 (1)

Additional tracks were observed on 1/28/2008 at these locations:

MP 312.2 (1)

MP 312.3 (3)

MP 314.5 (3)

MP 314.9 (1)

MP 310.0 (3)

MP 309.9 (5)

MP 309.8 (3)

MP 309.7 (4)

MP 320.6 (1)

MP 332.2 (1)

MP 332.5 (1)

MP 332.6 (1)

MP 317.5 (1)

Task 8: Data Management & Reporting in January 2008

Data entry and summary required two hours during January.